

Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1866.

The Intest Aerobic Attitude of Hon. John Bell.

It was a favorite simile of OSSIAN to represent the spirit of the Scottish forefathers reclining on the bosom of the wind, and howling forth the tale of their wrongs for the special edification of posterity. It would seem that the force of this imagery has stirred the Hon. JOHN BELL, of Tennessee, and that jealous of the monopoly heretofore exercised by the primeval bards, he enters into a tournament with them to see which can complain the loudest, and hold forth their grievances the longest. Although the hardy life of the Highland ancestors must have secured for them strong lungs, and a great amount of breath, yet still we cannot doubt that the Chevalier DE BELL the victor. We should judge that his long continued silence has been devoted to a diary-keeping of his wrongs, and that he stands ready to-day to flood us with the harrowing recital. Be that as it may, so far he has only threatened, and in his letter which we published yesterday, he declines for the present to ventilate his wrongs, because "the task was one which was beyond his strength," and it is delayed for the present because "of the extreme irritability of his nervous system." He, therefore, after giving us three columns of finely printed matter, is induced to "reserve further remarks for a subsequent article." The present one is quite enough in its way, and should the author's health be endangered by a continuation, we hope he will not jeopardize his valuable life even for the national good.

About five years ago, JOHN performed the famous double equestrian feat of riding round the political ring with one foot on a loyal and the other on a Rebel charger. Finding the position a strained one, he abandoned loyalty, and became firmly seated on the side of Rebellion. Since that time his efforts have been mainly directed towards reaching the other horse, and to-day, judging from the tone of his letter, he has so far succeeded as to have once more assumed the double position so strikingly presented by him in 1851. His letter is an effort to favor the North, without exciting the South, and consequently he breaks forth into eulogies over the policy of ANDREW JOHNSON. Yet, after bestowing the warmest commendation on the system of restoration, he announces that the South is at present under a despotic government; that its tyranny in many instances is galling, and the indignities to which the high-spirited Southerner is subjected most unbearable and degrading; adding, however, the cheerful declaration that the condition in which they are placed is irremediable, and by way of raising future hopes, assures them "that the darkest days have probably not yet arrived." All this savors decidedly of plagiarism, as it is evident that Mr. BELL has taken Mrs. Gummidge, of "David Copperfield" notoriety, as his prototype. He, like the "poor lone woman," recognizes all the agonies of his position, but can find no relief except in groans.

From what we have said it must be evident that the tone adopted by the illustrious JOHN is not such a one as is calculated to rouse the drooping spirits of the South. Having thus assured them that their present position and future prospects are irremediably horrible, he goes on to speak to them in regard to the leading questions of the day.

In this part of his letter is found all the real common sense which that document contains. Speaking of negro suffrage, he advocates its extension in the Southern States. He then speaks calmly and dispassionately, and gives forth advice which is so at variance with the tone of views he has heretofore advanced as to be remarkable. He frankly says:—

"I am not informed what qualifications are required at the present time in Massachusetts. But a few years ago, I believe, property to the value of two hundred and fifty dollars, and to be able to read and write, entitled the free men of color to a vote. A grant of the right of suffrage to the Southern free men of color upon such a basis or standard of merit cannot be dangerous. I am persuaded it would be entirely safe and proper."

When we see men who, like JOHN BELL, have heretofore stood up for white sovereignty, and who have never uttered a decided opinion in their lives, without retracting or modifying it the next minute, coming forth boldly on a side which, six years ago, would have insured a trial before Judge LYNCH, we may well hope that there is a good time coming, when prejudice shall yield to reason, and tyranny bow voluntarily before justice.

To the issue of admitting negro testimony he also yielded assent, although, strange to say, a less willing one than he did to the extension of suffrage. While acknowledging that, "after all the reflection I can give the subject, I believe that the concession of this right to testify in all cases where the black man is concerned, is necessary to the security of his own personal rights; and, it is my opinion, if he were allowed to testify in all cases, it would not be attended with the inconvenience or disadvantage that is generally apprehended," he at the same time goes into a lengthy defense of the unnatural and tyrannical antipathy which has heretofore existed, and does still exist in the South. The bitter opposition to which this right is subjected is to us inexplicable. The black can ride in the carriage, can be treated with kindness, and even can

be allowed to vote under certain qualifications; but the moment he is allowed to testify in a court, where right and justice only are to be secured, the greatest frenzy is visible among the members of the chivalric South. Can it be that the privilege thus accorded to the blacks would render many of the crimes, even now, openly committed dangerous, and thus place the master in a position of constraint before his servant?

The remainder of the letter from the Hon. JOHN is devoted to a retrospect, the object of which is not apparent after a careful perusal.

He endeavors, in fact, in the last part, to modify the outspoken views declared in the former portion. Had the letter ended in the middle, we would have given praise to the author for the enlightenment of his opinions, but the good effect of the whole is nullified by the fierce attack on "the modern enthusiasts, the radical Republicans." It is in part a white Southern popularity, an attempt to whitewash the South by abuse of the North, a second, and even less successful attempt at the double equestrianism of the days of 1851. We are ready, however, to pass by the bad because of the good contained, laying the former to the score of a naturally weak will and irritable nerves, and impugning the latter to that flash of sunlight which has illumined even a mind so vacillating in its opinions as that of the Hon. JOHN BELL.

The London "Times" on General Grant. THE London Times is unquestionably a powerful organ in forming the public opinion of Great Britain. Its opinions are delivered in such an oracular way that imperturbable John Bull has long accepted them as the very climax of wisdom and astuteness. To be sure it is not always reliable in its geographical and general statements in regard to American affairs, having sometimes located New York on the banks of the Rio Grande, and announced the startling fact that DANIEL WEBSTER had been arrested for the murder of DR. THEODORE PARKER in Boston. These trifling mistakes will occur occasionally, just as an American editor might say that Dublin was beautifully located amid the highlands of Scotland, or that "a mill" was in contemplation between TOM SAYERS and Lord PALMERSTON, whose recent deaths are not expected to have yet reached our benighted shore. We do not desire it to be particularly decided upon the subject of fact—the philosophical deductions drawn from the premises are all important.

During the late war the Times was extremely reliable not only in its assertions, but also in its prophecies. It early announced that the North lacked the ability to coerce or force obedience to established authority in the South. It indulged in the most fulsome flattery in commenting upon the heroic daring of the Rebels, and spoke slightly of Northern valor—it swallowed and apologized for the cruel system of human bondage which existed in the Southern States, and compared it favorably with the well-rewarded labor of the factory operatives of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, forgetful that Manchester, and Birmingham, and Sheffield, had been assisted in the hours of their need by generous appropriations from the very operatives that it has so ungenerously maligned. But it is in the region of our politics that the "Thunderer" is at home. Its American correspondents have committed such gigantic blunders that even stolid England has been forced to convulse her fat sides with laughter. We cannot recollect of a single instance in which the Times has fairly—or even intelligently—represented any of our great public measures. It never thoroughly caught the idea of our policy; or, if it did, persistently misrepresented us.

Among others who have come in for a fair share of abuse is our Lieutenant-General GRANT, who was generally spoken of as "a blunderer," a "butcher," with very strong intimations of his being a coward if not a brute. But for a few weeks past the tone of the paper is changing, and General GRANT is patronizingly admitted to be a rising young man, who, if he has the proper opportunity, will yet make his mark as a fair military commander. We have no doubt that the General will accept this mark of condescension with becoming modesty, and not be lifted out of propriety by the compliment. He must feel somewhat elated, after having by his indomitable energy crushed to atoms the most gigantic rebellion the world ever saw, to receive fifty lines of local notice in the London Times.

We do not regard the hypocritical admiration of the Times as of any special value to us. It comes at a wrong time. It might have been considered as a kindly office when we were struggling for national life; but being withheld then, it is simple insolence now. The crocodile sheds tears, but that is no reason why he should trust ourselves within reach of its dangerous jaws. If we are seduced by a siren song, we may awake too late to discover that we are engulfed in the seething vortex. "We fear the Greeks bringing gifts." We mistrust the newly awakened kindness of some of our English friends. Their soothing cordials and kind nepenthes may be very pleasant restoratives of former friendships, but they may turn out to be the poison of the asp and the venom of the cockatrice. We desire to have a little more experience before we can clasp our English brethren warmly by the hand. They may be very honest, but there is no harm in being what the Scotch call "a little canny." Our circumstances have materially changed within the past twelve months, and we can imagine a great many reasons why John Bull should be so desirous of establishing pleasant relations with us. We desire no conflict with any foreign nation, much less with one bound to us by so many tender ties, but it is necessary for our self-respect, if not to our safety, to be cautious how we make overtures to those who have reason to make every path plain for their own future easy and comfortable travel.

The Sensational.

THE French have been long noted for their fondness for excitement and sensation. THRODORÉ HOOK once stated the fact that it was a providence that Niagara Falls was not within twenty miles of Paris, for if such had been the case thousands of mercurial Frenchmen would have made morning excursions to it for the purpose of committing suicide by casting themselves into its turbulent rapids. But of late years we have rivalled the French in our disposition towards the exciting. New York has been especially active in the matter. We can recall many things that were mysterious, but interesting. It got up a bogus baby in connection with a fearful murder. The Postmaster absconded with the Government funds. The female scion of a wealthy house espoused the coachman. A distinguished Cuban inaugurated diamond weddings, greatly to the benefit of the jewellers, who hired out the ornamentation at remunerative returns. A well-known physician was murdered in his private office, and no trace of the offender could ever be discovered. A notorious prize-fighter carried a pistol ball in his heart for several days before he would consent to shuffle off this mortal coil. Persons of a lively temperament make their wedding trips in a balloon. A youthful banker pecuniates a few millions from his father, and receives two or three years of confinement at Sing Sing, amid the falling tears of the spectators. The wife of a wealthy merchant is charged with a want of chastity, and the court-room is crowded with moire antique and velvet, to listen to the disgusting details. The last sensation is the sudden disappearance of a broker, taking with him seven thousand dollars belonging to his firm and a young French actress, and leaving behind him a ruined reputation, a wife and some little children to suffer the consequences of his sin.

Perhaps the metropolis is not singular in this matter. There is too much of the excitable in our people. We are at present living a little too fast. Prodigious crimes are the order of the day, and we labor under the stern necessity of visiting retributive justice upon broadclothed scoundrels. Petty and inconceivable felonies, who only steal enough to eat and wear, never escape conviction, and society winks at show made upon money made dishonestly. Herein we are giving a premium to vice and crime. We are practically saying that intensity of guilt makes it venial. It has passed into a proverb that it is impossible to convict when the pocket is well lined with gold or greenbacks. Every citizen owes it to himself to labor to change public sentiment in this direction. Vice will never be punished so long as jurors fail to come up to the discharge of their duties. The law is never vindictive, but it should administer justice without fear or favor. When we begin to frown upon and detect great crimes, they will cease, and certainly not before. It is our duty to measure the punishment of crime just in proportion to the enormity of the offense, and then we may hope to see righteous retribution meted out to the high as well as the low.

The Punishment for Counterfeiting—The Necessity of a Rigorous Law.

THE immense volume of currency which has flooded our country, and the extensive variety of its denominations, size, and design, has rendered counterfeiting the national note a matter of considerable ease and no great danger. The profits accruing from the crime are sufficient to counterbalance all fear of detection, and the successful engraving of a single plate is rewarded by an almost unlimited issue of fraudulent notes. The damage thus done by a single daring encroacher on the law may be almost irremediable, and in proportion as the danger to our credit increases, so also should the rigor of punishment. It is emphatically necessary, in order to protect the people and continue their confidence, that every step should be taken towards preventing all persons from attempting to flood the land with spurious notes.

Some time since we referred to such a necessity, and we are glad to see that the arguments first urged by us in favor of a more rigorous law have been approved by our contemporaries, and the subject is now being agitated in various parts of the country. A number of our brother editors are favoring the making of counterfeiting a capital crime. We cannot agree that death, and only death, will restrain such as are desirous of leaving the paths of honesty, and creating through crime, a colossal fortune. We do not approve, ourselves, of making counterfeiting an offense of an equal magnitude, and consequent equal punishment, with murder. Should such a law be passed as to make conviction punishable by imprisonment for life, and such a restriction be placed upon the pardoning power as to incapacitate it from granting forgiveness to such as have been legally convicted, after a fair trial, we consider that the law would be much more effective, and much oftener executed. If the stupidity and prejudice of our juries will not allow them to convict a pretty woman of murder, when she is known to have wilfully killed two men, because her neck would come within the noose; if two homicides cannot induce them to deem her worthy of death, what prospect is there that any of these intelligent peers would consider a man worthy of death for counterfeiting a bill? The very severity of the law would act as a nullifier of its full effect. The result is that either a more moderate, yet not less fearful sentence must be secured, or else pass a statute which would be merely nominal.

We therefore favor imprisonment for life, in solitude, without the power being given to any officer to pardon. By such a course the enforcement of the sentence would be produced and a much more salutary effect secured, than by imposing a sentence which will never be enforced, and whose only power would be

in its name, and against which, also, all Christianity and humanity would protest. Let us therefore have an effective law, one which will act as a restraint and a vigorous chastiser, that by its provisions the purity of our currency may be preserved intact.

An Attempted Senatorial Assassination. THE ATTACK ON SENATOR WADE.—The threatening demonstration made on Senator WADE, of Ohio, on Wednesday night, was by a man well known to another Senator, and upon whom he called a short time after leaving Mr. WADE, but not in the way of menace. The offender is from Massachusetts, and has heretofore been in trouble both here and elsewhere.

The above lucid and satisfactory despatch was published in yesterday's papers as an explanation of the rumored attack, or intended attack, on Senator B. F. WADE, and is a fair sample of the ambiguity which characterizes many of the telegraphic messages sent by the Associated Press. The information conveyed is darkly mysterious, and smacks of the days of the Borgias. "The man who called on Senator WADE" was known by "another Senator," on whom he "called, but not in way of menace." "The offender is from Massachusetts." What offender? The Senator whom the despatch insinuates employed the man "of gigantic proportions," or "the man himself?" If either of them design to injure Mr. WADE, they had better hide their heads for shame—the Senator for hiring a man whose only recommendation was his having a size to rival the Arabian genie, and the man for allowing his intended victim to quietly leave the room and secure a pistol.

In fact, the whole tale of this tragedy has something of the fabulous about it, and until it can be cleared away, we object to the Associated Press exhausting the energy it possesses in tangling up the skein of evidence, and casting an insinuation at another Senator, and that without any circumstantial testimony being given. There is no news conveyed in talking about another Senator knowing a man who endeavored to assassinate the occupant of the Ohio senatorial chair. If there has been any misdeeds, let the names of all implicated be given, as well as the skeleton theory, which has no material apparently for a foundation.

IS STEPHENS' LETTER GENUINE?—A contemporary having stated that the letter from JAMES STEPHENS to JOHN O'MAHONY bore internal evidence of being a forgery, it seems to be but due to those who have accepted the letter as a genuine communication from the President of the Irish Republic, that all doubt should be set at rest. We are requested to state that Mr. MICHAEL CAVILLE, delegate from the Philadelphia Circle to the late Congress, saw the manuscript of the document, and having known STEPHENS for years, and being perfectly familiar with his writing, takes his affidavit to the letter being written in the President's hand, and to its being in tone similar to the one published in the public press.

LARGE INCOMES IN ENGLAND.—Dignities in England are expensive. The Queen's privy purse is £385,000 a year; the late King of the Belgians (uncle to the Queen), £50,000; the Prince of Wales, £40,000; the Princess of Wales, £10,000; the Duke of Cambridge, £12,000; the Princess Royal, £8,000; the Princess Alice Maud Mary, £5,000; the Duchess of Cambridge, £5,000; the Princess Mary of Cambridge, £3,000; the Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strzelitz, £3,000. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland has £20,000; the Lord Chancellor, the two Lord Justices of Appeal, and the Master of the Rolls, £20,000 each; the three Vice-Chancellors have £5,000 each; the Chief and Justice Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, about £28,000; of the Common Pleas and Exchequer, £27,000; and the Judge of the Probate Court, £5,000; the Assistant Judge, £12,000; the Speaker of the House of Commons, £20,000; Comptroller-General, £2,000.

—A great revolt of Circassian emigrants had taken place at Monech, and many lives were lost.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF THE ENTERPRISE INSURANCE COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, January 15, 1866. STATEMENT OF THE AFFAIRS OF THIS COMPANY ON DECEMBER 30, 1865.

Table with columns for ASSETS, Liabilities, and RECEIPTS IN 1865. Includes items like Bonds and Mortgages, Premiums on Fire Risks, and Payments in 1865.

RECEIPTS IN 1865. Premiums on Fire Risks, \$124,228.84; Interest on Bonds and Mortgages, \$1,193.71; Policy and Transfer Fees, \$99.59; Earnings on Cancelled Personal Policies, \$74.48.

PAYMENTS IN 1865. Dividends, January and July, \$13,000.00; Losses by Fire, \$2,963.00; Taxes, United States, State, and City, \$4,859.44; Return Premiums and Re-insurances, \$1,818.71; Printing, Advertising, Commissions, salaries, Fire Marshal, Office, and other expenses, \$9,292.54.

DIRECTORS. F. RAYBROOK STARR, J. L. EHRINGER, SALVINO FEZZI, GEO. W. FAIRBANKS, JOHN M. ATWOOD, JAMES L. STOCK, BENJ. T. DRICK, WILLIAM G. BOULTON, GEORGE B. STUART, CHARLES WHEELER, JOHN H. BROWN, T. H. MONTGOMERY.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE CLINTON COAL AND IRON COMPANY will be held at the office, No. 43 Merchants' Exchange, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th inst. at 4 o'clock P. M., to take into consideration the sale of the property.

A FAIR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE "Jewish Hospital" is now being held at the Assembly Buildings, N. W. corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, and will continue until the 20th inst. Hasler's Band will be in attendance every evening. 1156

DINING-ROOM.—F. LAKEMEYER, CAREY'S Alley, would respectfully inform the Public generally that he has set up a dining-room in this place comfortable in every respect for the accommodation of guests. He has opened a large and commodious Dining-Room in the second story, No. 512 Broadway, in connection with the NEW YORK HOTEL, on Wednesday, the 17th inst. at 4 o'clock P. M.

THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.—The annual meeting of the contributors to the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Blind will be held at the Institution, corner of Broad and Pine streets, on Wednesday, the 17th inst. at 4 o'clock P. M. The Annual Report of the Board of Directors will be submitted, and an election will be held for officers to serve for the ensuing year. 15th St. JAMES J. BARCLAY, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE CONSOLIDATION NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, January 15, 1866. At an Election held January 9, 1866, the following gentlemen were elected Directors, to serve the ensuing year:— JAMES V. WATSON, SEYMOUR E. MALONE, JOHN H. BRINGHEAST, ROBERT B. HORMAKER, HENRY CROSBY, ROBERT F. TAYLOR, JOSEPH B. COLLINGS, JOHN W. THOMAS, EDWIN A. LANDELL, JOSEPH P. VAN DUSEN, LUDLAM MATTHEWS, JOHN W. VERBEE, JOHN W. WATSON.

SECOND NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA. PHILADELPHIA, January 11, 1866. At the Annual Meeting of the stockholders of this Bank, held on the 9th inst., the following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year:— THOMAS H. HULL, GEORGE W. BROWN, BENJAMIN B. ROWLAND, JR., EDWARD HAYES, BENJAMIN H. DEACON, LEWIS S. GIBBS, CHARLES E. KREMER, JOHN COULLEN, WILLIAM ERIEVEN.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, NATHAN HILLES was unanimously re-elected President. 1116 WILLIAM H. BROWN, Cashier.

THE THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA. PHILADELPHIA, January 12, 1866. At the Annual Meeting of the stockholders of this Bank, held on the 9th inst., the following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year:— WILLIAM C. ALLISON, DAVID B. PAUL, JOHN B. MCCORMICK, THOMAS K. PETERSON, JOSEPH HARRISON, JR., JAMES H. CALVERT, JOHN W. VERBEE, FRANCIS TETTE.

At the meeting of the Directors held this day DAVID B. PAUL, Esq., was unanimously re-elected President. 1118 W. RUSHTON, Jr., Cashier.

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, January 12, 1866. At an election held on the 10th of January, 1866, the following named stockholders were elected Directors of this Bank:— WILLIAM M. FARR, EDWIN M. LEWIS, LINDLEY SMYTH, JOHN SCHUBERT, WILLIAM H. MERRICK, JAMES J. A. RELO, WM. H. WARD, BENJAMIN A. FARHAM, RICHARD C. DALRYMPLE, JAMES H. FIBELL, FRANCIS S. HITCHCOCK, FRANCIS TETTE.

At a meeting of the Directors this day, S. A. MERRICK, Esq., was unanimously re-elected President. EDWIN M. LEWIS, Esq., Vice President. 1121 W. RUSHTON, Jr., Cashier.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD. PHILADELPHIA, January 15, 1866. The following gentlemen have been elected to serve for the ensuing year:— PRESIDENT, CHARLES E. SMITH, H. P. MCKEAN, J. H. LIPPINCOTT, R. B. CABELE, J. H. ASHMEY, R. B. CABELE, STEPHEN COLWELL, SECRETARY, S. W. GARDNER, WILLIAM H. WEBB.

OFFICE EVANS FARM OIL COMPANY, No. 112 South Third Street. The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of the Evans Farm Oil Company will be held at the office, No. 112 South Third Street, on WEDNESDAY, January 17th, 1866, at 3 o'clock P. M., at which time a proposition will be submitted to reduce the capital stock from \$200,000 to \$100,000.

H. A. STILES, D. P. CUBBERLEY, President. P. F. CLAYTON, Directors. 112 to 312 F. MILLER.

OFFICE OF THE HAZLETON ROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, January 15, 1866. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Hazleton Road Company will be held at their office, No. 262 WALNUT Street on Thursday, the 10th day of February next, at 12 o'clock M., when an election will be held to select Directors to serve the ensuing year. ALEXANDER G. W. GAW, Secretary. 1131

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